

PHYSICAL EDUCATION at AS/A2 LEVEL

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA (subject to review)

WHY STUDY PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

An understanding of Physical Education underpins the study of many other subjects including Biology, History and Psychology. It encourages students to take a broad view of sport and physical education, to develop their capacity for critical thinking and to appreciate the relationship between different aspects of the subject. Students gain knowledge and understanding of the factors that influence performance and participation in physical activity, and learn to apply them to a range of different activities. Students also extend their ability to apply and combine skills in increasingly demanding situations. They also take their knowledge of health and fitness to a greater depth.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To embark on an A level or AS course in this subject it is desirable for students to have followed a GCSE course in Physical Education as this contains core knowledge for the A level course. If a student has followed the Biology specification at GCSE this is also a consideration but it is important that student and parents seek the advice of the Head of Department before a decision is made on entry.

SUBJECT SPECIFICATION

AS is taken in Year 12. It comprises of three modules:

1. Physiological and Psychological Factors which improve performance.
2. Socio-cultural and Historical effects on participation in physical activity and their influence on performance.
3. Analysis and evaluation of the factors which improve performance. Application of theory through planning, performing and evaluating an exercise training programme and a practical demonstration of skills.

A2 is taken in Year 13. This is also made up of three modules:

1. Physiological, biomechanical and psychological factors which optimise performance.
2. Factors affecting the nature and development of elite performance and a synoptic assessment.
3. Analysis and critical evaluation of factors which optimise performance. Application of knowledge through practical demonstration of skills or a written project investigation plus an externally assessed synoptic assignment.

The first module may be taken in January and the others in summer.

There is also the opportunity to re-sit modules in order to improve grades/point scores.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER CHOICES

There is a huge variety of university courses and career opportunities open to students who have studied this subject.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Students or parents requiring any further details are most welcome to contact Mrs P Keighley, Head of Physical Education.